

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0508

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SOVIET & US STATEMENTS AT DEC 12
PLENARY SESSION

1. THE FINAL PLENARY MEETING OF THE FOURTH ROUND OF
THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WAS HELD ON DEC 12, 1974. STATE-
MENTS WERE MADE BY THE SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) AND BY
THE US REP.

2. THE US STATEMENT, APPROVED AT THE DEC 11 AD HOC
GROUP MEETING, WAS A SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALLIED POSITION DURING THE
FOURTH ROUND. THE STATEMENT BEGAN BY REFERRING TO
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A "BASIC NEW ISSUE" OF WHETHER PARTICIPANTS SHOULD

DIRECTLY PURSUE THE ORIGINAL AIM OF NEGOTIATING SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS OR WHETHER THEY SHOULD DEFER THAT OBJECTIVE AND INSTEAD SEEK "LIMITED INTERIM MEASURES." US REP'S STATEMENT MADE CLEAR THE WESTERN POSITION IN FAVOR OF NEGOTIATING "MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS." PURSUANT TO AHG DECISION (SEPTTEL), THE US STATEMENT DID NOT REPEAT DID NOT INCLUDE THE RECENT NAC GUIDANCE ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. THE TEXT OF THE US STATEMENT WAS TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM.

3. IN HIS LENGTHY STATEMENT, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV REVIEWED THE FOURTH ROUND AND THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER ONE YEAR, HAILING EASTERN INITIATIVES SUCH AS FIRST STEP AND FREEZE PROPOSALS AND CRITICIZING THE WEST FOR LACK OF FLEXIBILITY AND FAILURE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY EASTERN CONCERNS. KHLESTOV CRITICIZED AT THE CONTINUED WESTERN INSISTENCE ON THE "INVENTED" CONCEPT OF DISPARITIES AND BERATED THE "SO-CALLED MODIFICATIONS" TO THE WESTERN REDUCTION PLAN. HE SAID PARTICIPANTS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE BEFORE DISCUSSION OF DATA. KHLESTOV NOTED THE "ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE" WESTERN FIRST REACTION TO THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, BUT EXPRESSED THE "HOPE THAT THIS IS NOT THE LAST WORD. KHLESTOV ADDED THE IMPROMPTU REMARKS THAT THE ALLIED AIR NO-INCREASE OFFER WAS NOT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE, BUT NOTED THAT "THIS IS JUST A PRELIMINARY COMMENT ON IT."

4. KHLESTOV SEEMED SOMEWHAT RATTLED BY REFERENCE IN THE US STATEMENT TO "A BASIC NEW ISSUE" OF SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS VIS-A-VIS "LIMITED INTERIM MEASURES." HE REPLIED, ABOUT HALF-WAY THROUGH HIS TEXT, WITH ABOUT FIVE MINUTES OF IMPROMPTU REMARKS, DESIGNED TO CORRECT ANY "ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS" THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM US REP'S STATEMENT. KHLESTOV SOUGHT TO MAKE CASE THAT RECENT EASTERN PROPOSALS WERE NOT EVIDENCE OF LACK OF SOVIET INTEREST IN MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS. HE SAID THAT BOTH EAST AND WEST WERE INTERESTED IN SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS, THAT THE EAST

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HAD OFFERED THE FIRST STEP AND FREEZE PROPOSALS AS A WAY TO SPUR MOVEMENT IN THE DEADLOCKED TALKS TOWARDS SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIMNS AND THAT US REP'S STATEMENT SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT NO FIRST STEP TYPE PROPOSAL COULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

5. THE CHAIRMAN (POLISH REP STRULAK) SAID HE WOULD INFORM THE PRESS THAT THE DATES FOR RESUMING CONTACTS

IN VIENNA AND FOR THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING WOULD BE
TOWARD THE END OF JANUARY. AFTER BELATED CABLE FROM
MOSCOW ARRIVED, STRUALK SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED
THAT DELEGATIONS WOULD RETURN IN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 27
AND THAT THE FIRST PLENARY OF THE FIFTH ROUND WOULD
BE JANUARY 30. RESOR

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